

# **WSDOT / WSP JOINT OPERATIONS POLICY STATEMENT**

## **BRIEFING PAPER**

Prepared for the  
February 2002 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

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### **PURPOSE:**

To inform the Commission about the development and implementation of the Joint Operations Policy Statement (JOPS) between WSDOT and WSP.

### **ACTION/OUTCOME:**

No action required. This is an informational briefing.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Both WSP and WSDOT are responsible for ensuring safe, convenient, and reliable transportation on state highways. Each agency possesses extensive statutory authority to implement their respective agency missions. However, very little statutory direction exists to require coordination between WSP and WSDOT. A joint operations policy statement allows each agency to clarify respective roles and responsibilities, as well as focus each agency's resources in areas that are most effective.

The only previous joint policy statement between WSDOT and WSP was developed in 1999. It was approximately two pages long and focused on incident command issues at accident scenes.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Staff in the Maintenance and Operations programs has worked cooperatively with WSP staff for many years on numerous issues of joint interest. The two staffs discussed the benefits of documenting the many areas of policy agreement between the two agencies. They also identified several policy issues that needed clarification and agreed that a joint operations policy document could be the vehicle for clarifying policy roles. At the Annual WSP/WSDOT meeting in Oct. 2001, Chief Serpas and Secretary MacDonald agreed and committed both agencies to developing such a policy statement.

Staff in both agencies worked to create a draft policy statement by the end of Nov. 2001. Since that time, the draft has been circulated for review around both agencies and is in pre-final form. A joint signature event has been scheduled for Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> in Seattle.

*Some facts about the JOPS ...*

The Joint Operational Policy Statement commits both agencies to work together to keep people and business moving safely by operating and improving the state transportation systems vital to our taxpayers and communities.

Included in the policy statement are the following commitments:

- To improve traveler and worker safety in highway work zones by enhancing WSP presence.
- To enhance transportation security by expanding surveillance and inspection of key transportation facilities
- To improve highway safety and reduce congestion by clearing highway incidents in congested areas within 90 minutes.
- To enhance public safety by jointly developing an interoperable radio communication system.
- To use highway tax dollars efficiently by locating WSDOT and WSP facilities together wherever possible.
- To use state-of-the-art technology to expedite accident investigations.
- To increase commercial vehicle safety by building more truck inspection facilities.
- To expedite commercial vehicle freight movement through the Commercial Vehicle Information Systems Network (CVISN)
- To enhance WSP security presence on Washington State Ferries.

The WSDOT and WSP will work toward achieving these policy goals through effective use of existing agency resources, or through new resources granted via legislative actions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

None.

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